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Sixty-sixth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIRST PART (PUBLIC)* OF THE 1779th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Wednesday, 28 July 1999, at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: Ms. MEDINA QUIROGA

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* The summary record of the second part (closed) of the meeting appears as document CCPR/C/SR.1779/Add.1.

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GE.99-43365 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES UNDER ARTICLE 40 OF THE COVENANT (agenda item 4) (continued)

Draft/consolidated guidelines for State reports under the Covenant (continued) (CCPR/C/GUI/2/Rev.1)

1. Lord COLVILLE, recalling the discussion at the preceding meeting, said that the proposed guidelines were intended to replace all earlier guidelines on the preparation of State reports, with the exception of any guidelines the Committee might have issued in respect of special reports. They also superseded general comment 2.

2. Mr. POCAR said that, as far as he recollected, no document containing guidelines on special reports had ever been adopted by the Committee. The matter had been discussed at the sessions in 1991 or 1992; references could no doubt be found in the summary records.

3. Mr. KLEIN said that guidelines for the preparation of special reports were mentioned in paragraph 16 of document CCPR/C/133.

4. The CHAIRPERSON suggested that the symbols of all documents to be replaced by the new guidelines should be inserted in paragraph A.1.

5. It was so agreed.

6. The draft/consolidated guidelines, as amended, were adopted on that understanding.

Date of submission of the next periodic reports of Cambodia, Mexico, Poland and Romania.

7. The CHAIRPERSON said that the Bureau had considered the question of the dates by which the States parties whose reports had been considered at the present session should submit their next reports and had agreed on the following: Cambodia 2002, Mexico 2002, Poland 2003, Romania 2003.

8. Mr. LALLAH asked for an explanation of the reasoning behind that proposal.

9. Ms. EVATT said that the proposal was based on the dates on which the reports considered at the present session had been due and those on which they had been received. The initial report of Cambodia had been due in 1993 and had been submitted, with considerable delay, in 1998. It seemed reasonable that the submission of the second periodic report, originally scheduled for 1998, should be deferred for three years. Mexico's report, which had been due in 1997, had been submitted that year and there seemed to be no reason to deviate from the scheduled date of 2002 for the next report. As to Poland and Romania, their reports, due in 1994, had been submitted in 1996 and their next reports were due in the current year; a postponement by four years was thought to be appropriate.

10. Mr. SCHEININ suggested that, in view of the unsatisfactory nature of Cambodia's initial report, it might be better to bring the date for submission of the next report forward to 2001.

11. Mr. POÇAR agreed, adding that he would have no objection to setting back the date for, say, Poland's next report to 2004.

12. Mr. KLEIN said that he understood Mr. Scheinin's concern but saw little point in setting a submission date of 2001 when the Committee would probably not consider Cambodia's next report before 2006. Merely to build up the backlog of reports seemed to him to be irresponsible.

13. Mr. BHAGWATI expressed his complete agreement with those remarks.

14. Mr. AMOR thanked Mr. Klein for his realistic approach.

15. Mr. KRETZMER also agreed, adding that Cambodia's main problem was institution building, which took time. There was nothing to be gained by advancing the date of submission of Cambodia's next report.

16. Mr. WIERUSZEWSKI and Mr. ZAKHIA also endorsed Mr. Klein's remarks and expressed support for the dates proposed by the Bureau.

17. The Bureau's proposals were adopted.

18. The CHAIRPERSON recalled that the Committee normally forwarded its concluding observations to the States parties concerned on the last day of the session, allowing an interval of a few hours before the customary press conference. For technical reasons, the current session's press conference would have to be held on the day before the closure of the session, 29 July, at 5 p.m. If there was no objection, she proposed to send the concluding observations to the respective States parties immediately upon adoption by the Committee.

19. It was so decided.

20. The CHAIRPERSON proposed that Hong Kong and Portugal (Macau) should be added to the list of four States parties whose reports were scheduled for consideration at the Committee's next session in October 1999.

21. It was so decided.

The public part of the meeting rose at 3.25 p.m.